

Loudoun County Public School system and to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 652 H. Con. Res. 336, Providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### HONORING BARBARA HEISER O'NEIL ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Barbara Heiser O'Neil, a resident of Hawthorne Township, New Jersey, for her 35 years of devoted service to the citizens of New Jersey as a Constituent Affairs Manager at Public Service Electric and Gas.

Barbara O'Neil grew up in Paterson, New Jersey and studied at Montclair State University and Yale. She held various roles as an employee at Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG), eventually becoming a Constituent Affairs Manager. Mrs. O'Neil is well known to every Congressional District Office in New Jersey. Congressional members and staff know that when a constituent need arises, Mrs. O'Neil will always help in a manner that is both timely and caring.

Mrs. O'Neil has had a significant impact on my constituents throughout her career at PSEG, yet her contributions to the people of New Jersey extend beyond her role as a Constituent Affairs Manager. She is devoted to giving back to her community as a volunteer, currently serving as a member of the Board of Bergen Community College and Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey. She has also served on the Board of the American Cancer Society. Mrs. O'Neil's commitment to improving the lives of her fellow New Jerseyans shines through in all that she does.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Barbara Heiser O'Neil's dedication to the State of New Jersey and congratulate her on her outstanding career. I send her my best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

#### HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE USS FRANKLIN DURING WORLD WAR II

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to my fa-

ther and the men and women who he served with on the USS *Franklin*. The ship that wouldn't die, also known as "Big Ben," is one of the most decorated ships in naval history. I often think of how my dad, then just 19 years of age, 45 miles off the coast of Japan, dealt with the series of events that unfolded on the Essex-class carrier *Franklin*. Like so many of his generation, he said little about the battle and the loss of life that took place during the crew's effort to keep the *Franklin* afloat. Al Amos, one of my dad's friends from Connecticut, was also a survivor and recently his daughter sent me a book, "Inferno: The Epic Life and Death Struggle of the USS *Franklin* in World War II," which chronicled the heroic efforts on board the *Franklin* on March 19, 1945. In memory of that event, I flew a flag over the United States Capitol to honor Al, my dad, all the surviving crew members, and those who have since passed. History will forever record these deeds and the valor displayed. As the son of Raymond E. Larson, I wanted to pay this small tribute in recognition of the heroic efforts that defined the men and women who have served our country and make us uniquely American. The following is a brief summary.

On March 19, 1945, the Essex-class battle carrier, the USS *Franklin*, had maneuvered less than 50 miles from the coast of Japan. It was closer than any American ship had been to Japan during the war. The crew had been battle-tested since the summer of 1944 and launched numerous attacks on the enemy in the Pacific from Iwo Jima to the Bonin Islands. It had survived multiple attacks by the enemy from bombers, torpedo assaults, and kamikaze missions. A direct hit from a bomber on October 3rd killed 3 sailors and wounded 22 and a suicide bomber struck the *Franklin* on October 30th, killing 56 and wounding 60 on board. Following a grueling tour of duty the previous year, the *Franklin* had been repaired and was stationed near the Japanese mainland in 1945 where it was launching attacks on the mainland island of Honshu and the Kobe Harbor.

On March 19, a Japanese bomber dropped from the clouds and struck the *Franklin* with two armor-piercing bombs in a devastating hit that penetrated the deck, destroyed the ship's communication system, and caused it to become engulfed in flames. Just off the Japanese coast, the *Franklin* was dead in the water. There were countless stories of heroics among the 704 survivors who saved the lives of many more who would have otherwise perished. Of the many heroes that day, the ship's chaplain, LCDR Joseph T. O'Callahan, led rescue efforts through twisted metal, burning debris, and suffocating smoke while administering last rites and comforting the wounded.

LT Donald Gray discovered 300 men trapped in a mess compartment and led repeated efforts to evacuate them and rescue them from certain peril. Both men received the Medal of Honor for their bravery. In total, 724 sailors were killed in the attack and 265 were wounded. Through the blistering assault from the enemy, the USS *Franklin* was the most heavily damaged ship to survive the war and managed to make it back to port.

Many of the survivors went on to lead remarkable lives. Spencer Le Van Kimball went on to become a Rhodes Scholar and the youngest Dean of the University of Utah Law School at the age of 35. Alphonse Goodberlet was a pilot who was wounded while serving

on the USS *Franklin* and went on to have a distinguished career in the Navy, rising to the rank of Commander after 22 years of service. Alvin Gallen, who served as a gunner on the *Franklin*, was drafted to play baseball for the Cleveland Indians and played in their farm system before leaving the game to have a long career in commercial building. These brave young men from various walks of life came together to patriotically serve their country and hundreds paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sixty-five years later, the ordeal that these sailors went through is a reminder that America has faced enormous challenges before and has been able to overcome them. Although it is hard to imagine a more difficult situation than the assault the USS *Franklin* faced, that battered ship made it back to port and the survivors went on to be part of the greatest generation. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude and will never forget the sacrifice they made for this country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GIVING CIRCLE OF HERITAGE HUNT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Giving Circle of Heritage Hunt in Gainesville, Virginia.

The Giving Circle was established by members of the Heritage Hunt community to assist local non-profit organizations with financial donations. Members of the Giving Circle save one dollar each day for this effort. At the end of the year, the organization's membership considers applications from non-profits and votes on the recipients of the annual donations.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the recipients of the Giving Circle's 2010 donations:

BEACON for Adult Literacy provides tutoring to adults in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), the GED or high school equivalency test, and basic reading, writing, and math skills. BEACON also provides life-skills workshops on topics such as health and safety, nutrition, financial literacy, parenting skills and community resources.

Brethren Housing Corporation is in its 22nd year of providing sustainable, permanent affordable housing and transitional housing to low- and middle-income families in the Greater Manassas and Prince William County area.

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Greater Prince William County trains volunteers to protect abandoned, abused or neglected children. The Advocates help the children receive the assistance they need to overcome their trauma and find a permanent home. The organization currently serves 400 children with the help of more than 100 volunteers.

The Prince William Area Free Clinic is a public-private partnership between Prince William and Sentara Potomac Hospital, the Prince William Medical Society, and the Prince William Health Department. It is staffed by volunteer professionals and support staff to help meet the needs of the low-income and uninsured population.

Project Mend-a-House uses the skills of volunteer carpenters, plumbers, electricians,